



HENLEY BANK HIGH SCHOOL

Friday 15th February 2019

Dear Parents and Carers,

What a weekend of quality rugby last weekend turned out to be! The best team to represent England since the World Cup win? They certainly have stacks of talent which is giving us a breadth and depth of opportunity that perhaps we haven't had for a while. Their teamwork ethos and self-leadership is definitely something for our students to enjoy. Whilst there is no rugby this weekend I am really looking forward to next Saturday when we take on Wales on their home turf. It promises to be an exciting battle from start to finish and I know that Mr Powell and Dr Glover are looking a little less confident since England's performance against France. May the best team win!

Sport at Henley Bank High School is on an upward trajectory and this week our fantastic Netballers in years 9 and 10 played against Beaufort School and despite coming second in their matches the scores of 16-22 and 4-7 made for brilliant watching. The ethos of these teams is a delight to experience. Training together and playing every week, win or lose, is a sign of genuine invested team spirit.

This week we welcomed local professional boxer, Che Mills, to the Henley Bank High School team. Boxing is a hugely valuable sport for so many reasons and particularly because of its ability to instil self-discipline, develop self-confidence and its almost unrivalled capacity to increase health and fitness levels. A healthy body breeds a healthy mind and this is our latest offer to our students to support a healthy and happy lifestyle. Che will be running a boxing club for all students every Friday from 3pm until 4pm and then for Year 11 students from 4pm until 5pm to help them sweat out the residue of a productive week at work and prepare them for an enjoyable weekend.

This week 7 students from Year 7 went to Shurdington Primary School to launch an exciting new programme called Appyness Online. Appyness Online is a peer to peer education programme meaning our students literally went in as the teachers to Y6, teaching them all about staying safe online. It has been created with the idea that Y6s are far more likely to listen to the advice and knowledge from a Y7 as they are much closer in age. This was certainly true as Y6 discussed their thoughts and opinions with Y7 with my much more confidence and vigour than they ever do to their teacher. Thank you to Jessie Randall, Jamie Knight, Tyler White, Isabel Wright, Niwell Nibali, Greg Gjika and Harry Banks who led the session beautifully.

The Mill was packed today with an audience watching Henley Bank High School's version of the TV game show 'The Chase'. A number of teams of students from all year groups pitched their general knowledge skills against Mr Dakin, Mrs Bradbury and myself and I am far too embarrassed to share the results with you.

Mrs Annie Dobson joined us for her first round of careers interviews with our Year 11 students today. Annie's wisdom and expertise will ensure that our year 11 students are well informed about all of the opportunities available to them after their GCSEs and help them set targets and give focus to their future life plans, the key to which is the results they achieve in August this year. Speaking with a number of the students who have worked with Annie today they have commented unanimously that they feel energised and motivated to invest their time and effort into making their dream careers a reality. Annie's work will be disseminated through to other year groups throughout the rest of the academic year.

I want to wish you all a lovely weekend and the students a productive and enjoyable half term break.

Kind regards,

Mr B. Nash